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Message Text

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71
ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-20

STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 FEA-02

OMB-01 SAM-01 /195 W
---------- 069893
R 281726Z FEB 74
FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6515
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS UNN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION OECD PARIS UNN

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E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, US, EC
SUBJ: US/EC CONSULTATION ON WINE

REF: STATE 36629

1. SUMMARY. EC COMMISSION OFFICIALS WELCOMED THE POSITIVE US REACTION TO THE PROPOSAL FOR A MORATORIUM ON USE OF THE EC WINE CERTIFICATE. THEY SAID THAT IN PRINCIPAL THE COMMISSION WOULD PARTICIPATE IN
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CONSULATIONS IN WASHINGTON. WE ALSO LEARNED THE STATUS

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OF THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSALS ON WINE BOTTLE SIZES.
END SUMMARY.

2. ON FEBRUARY 27 WE INFORMED FIELDING, EC COMMISSION DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR NORTH AMERICA, AS WELL AS COMMISSION OFFICIALS IN THE DIRECTORATES GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND INTERNAL MARKET, OF THE POINTS CONTAINED IN REFTEL. FIELDING RESPONDED THAT THE COMMISSION WAS PLEASED TO HAVE A POSITIVE US REACTION TO THE PROPOSAL FOR A MORATORIUM ON THE WINE CERTIFICATE, BUT IN VIEW OF THE PASSAGE OF TIME, HE WOULD HAVE TO RECONFIRM THE MATTER WITHIN THE COMMISSION. FIELDING AGREED THAT WE SHOULD USE THE NEXT FEW MONTHS TO TRY TO WORK OUT A MORE PERMANENT ARRANGEMENT, BUT HE CAUTIONED US THAT IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT, FOR THE COMMUNITY TO MAKE SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES IN ITS WINE REGULATIONS.

3. FIELDING SAID THAT THE COMMISSION WOULD BE GLAD TO CONSULT WITH THE UNITED STATES IN WASHINGTON ON ALL ASPECTS OF THE WINE QUESTION BOTH ON THE US AND EC SIDES. HOWEVER, THERE WAS ONE PROBLEM BECAUSE OF THE FACT THAT GOURDON, CHIEF OF THE WINE DIVISION, HAS BROKEN HIS ARM AND WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE UNTIL LATE MARCH. (SINCE GOURDON HAS BEEN ONE OF THE MOST HELPFUL MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION STAFF ON THIS MATTER, WE SUGGESTED INFORMALLY TO FIELDING THAT THOUGH THE US BELIEVES THE CONSULTATIONS SHOULD TAKE PALCE IN LATE MARCH, IT MIGHT BE PREFEREABLE TO DELAY THEM ONE WEEK IF NECESSARY TO HAVE GOURDON PARTICIPATE. FIELDING SAID HE WOULD GET IN TOUCH WITH US LATER IN REGARD TO DATES.

4. FAURE OF THE DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR THE INTERNAL MARKET EXPLAINED TO US THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSAL ON STANDARADIZATION OF CONTAINER SIZES. THE COMMISSION HAD SENT THE PROPOSAL TO THE COUNCIL ON THE 25TH OF FEBRUARY, 1972 (SEE EC A-90, 1972). THIS PROPOSAL HAS BEEN EXAMINED BY THE PARLIAMENT AND THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE. IT MAY BE PASSED BY THE COUNCIL BY THE 1ST OF JULY, 1974, BUT HIS IS BY NO MEANS CERTAIN. THE CURRENT PROPOSAL WILL NOT REQUIRE
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MEMBER STATES TO ELIMINATE THE USE OF NON-LISTED SIZES, BUT IT WILL REQUIRE ALL MEMBER STATES TO ACCEPT ANY OF A SPECIFIED LIST OF SIZES, INCLUDING BOTH THE .7 AND THE .75 LITER BOTTLE.

5. BOULLEZ OF THE WINE DIVISION AND FAURE RECALLED THAT IN NOVEMBER THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF WINES, ETC., HAD AGREED UPON A SERIES OF MANDATORY SIZES FOR

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INTERNATIONAL TRADE, INCLUDING THE .75 BUT NOT THE .7
SIZE BOTTLES. HOWEVER, NEITHER FAURE NOR BOULLEZ
BELIEVED THAT ADOPTION OF THIS MEASURE BY THE FEDERATION
WOULD AFFECT THE TIMING OR THE SUBSTANCE OF THE
COUNCIL'S RACTION ON THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSAL.
GREENWALD

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